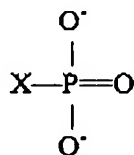


In re Appln. of Verschuere et al
Application No. 10/016,960

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Previously Presented) Direct-to-plate method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate having a hydrophilic surface comprising the steps of:
- (a) making a negative-working imaging layer by coating on the hydrophilic surface a solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles;
 - (b) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposing the imaging layer to heat or light;
 - (c) applying ink and fountain solution to the printing master;
 - (d) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by supplying a cleaning liquid to the imaging layer thereby obtaining a recycled substrate and
 - (e) treating the recycled substrate by supplying a refreshing liquid consisting of an aqueous solution having a pH<7.
2. (Original) Method according to claim 1 wherein the negative-working imaging layer comprises a hydrophilic binder.
3. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~claims 1 or 2~~ claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution having a pH<7 comprises a compound according to formula I:



(I)

wherein X is OH, O⁻ or a polymer backbone.

4. (Original) Method according to claim 3 wherein the compound according to formula (I) is phosphoric acid or a phosphate salt.
5. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

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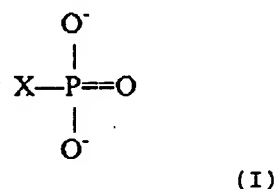
6. (Currently Amended) Method according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

7. (Currently Amended) Method according to claim 1 wherein the ~~ink and fountain~~ solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid or the refreshing liquid is sprayed ~~or jetted~~ onto the substrate.

8. (New) Method according to claim 1, where the cleaning liquid comprises an aqueous emulsion of an alcohol and a cyclic compound having at least one double bond.

9. (New) Method according to claim 1 wherein the solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid, or the refreshing liquid is jetted onto the substrate.

10. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the aqueous solution having a $\text{pH} < 7$ comprises a compound according to formula I:



wherein X is OH, O⁻ or a polymer backbone.

11. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

12. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

13. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

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14. (New) Method according to claim 2 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.
15. (New) Method according to claim 3 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.
16. (New) Method according to claim 4 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.
17. (New) Method according to claim 5 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.
18. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.
19. (New) Method according to claim 9 wherein the solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles, the cleaning liquid, or the refreshing liquid is jetted onto the substrate.
20. (New) Method according to claim 8 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.